

The Texas State Water Plan

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Water issues are high priority as the 83rd Regular Session gets underway. Speaker of the House Joe Straus has [called](#) on the House of Representatives to address the state's water needs, and Lt. Governor David Dewhurst has [voiced](#) his support for using money from the Rainy Day Fund to spend on water projects. More recently, Governor Rick Perry discussed the State Water Plan in his [State of the State speech](#).

The following list of resources provides information on the State Water Plan and can assist you in tracking legislative activity on this issue.

State Water Plan:

The current State Water Plan was developed between 2006 and 2011 and is available [online](#).

State water plans going back to 1961 are available on the Texas Water Development Board's [website](#).

For a history of water funding in Texas, please visit the Library's [Texas Water Law Timeline](#).

Legislation:

As of January 30, the following bills have been filed to address funding of the State Water Plan:

- [HB 4](#) by Representative Allan Ritter. Relating to the creation and funding of the state water implementation fund for Texas to assist the Texas Water Development Board in the funding of certain water-related projects.
- [HB 11](#) by Representative Allan Ritter. Relating to the appropriation of money from the economic stabilization fund to finance certain water-related projects.
- [HB 227](#) by Representatives Lyle Larson and Paul Workman. Relating to the appropriation of money from the economic stabilization fund to be used for the purposes of the water infrastructure fund during the next state fiscal biennium.
- [SB 4](#) by Senator Troy Fraser. Relating to the administration and functions of the Texas Water Development Board.
- [SB 22](#) by Senator Troy Fraser. Relating to the administration of the Texas Water Development Board; making an appropriation from the economic stabilization fund to finance certain water-related projects.
- [SB 224](#) by Senator Kel Seliger. Relating to the availability of money from the economic stabilization fund to be used for the purposes of projects in the state water plan.
- [SB 235](#) by Senator Troy Fraser. Relating to the creation of regional authorities for water infrastructure projects.

Committees

Water bills may be heard by the Senate Natural Resources Committee and/or the House Natural Resources Committee. A list of members of the House Natural Resources Committee can be found [here](#) and a list of members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee can be found [here](#).

Interim reports:

The House Natural Resources Committee studied water issues during the interim and recently released a set of recommendations: [Report to the 83rd Texas Legislature](#)

The Senate Natural Resources Committee also examined water issues during the interim; video of their interim hearings can be viewed at: <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/avarchive/>

Earlier interim reports about the State Water Plan are [available](#), as well as interim reports about [water planning in general](#).

Additional sources of information:

[Texas drought information](#) Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

[Drinking water, water quality, and other water-related topics](#) Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

[Texas Water Development Board](#) Find resources on water planning, groundwater, water innovation, and more.

News and other state legislation

[Energy and environment legislation tracking database](#) National Conference of State Legislatures

[State rainwater harvesting statutes, programs and legislation](#) National Conference of State Legislatures

[Your guide to water issues in Texas](#) StateImpact Texas

[Water supply news](#) Texas Tribune